

**AMENDMENT TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please replace all prior versions of the Abstract with the following new Abstract:

**ABSTRACT**

A directory enabled network element ~~is disclosed,~~ which ~~in~~ one embodiment, is a ~~router, switch, or other~~ network device that has an ~~directory enabling~~ element that is enables ~~configured to query~~, accessing, and update~~ing~~ directory information that is managed by a directory service of a network ~~that includes the network element~~. An application programming interface (API) is configured to receive directory services requests from application programs (APs) and provide the directory services requests to the directory enabling element. A locator service is accessible using the ~~application programming interface~~API and configured to locate servers that provide the directory services ~~in the network~~. A bind service in the directory enabling element is coupled to a security protocol and ~~configured to bind an external application program to the security protocol~~. An event service is configured to receive registration of an event and an associated ~~responsive~~ action from an ~~application~~AP program, notify the ~~application program~~AP when the event occurs, and execute the associated responsive action ~~in response thereto~~. As a result, ~~a router, switch, or other~~The network device can thereby automatically authenticate itself to a directory service ~~and query, access and update information in any directory server of a distributed network~~.